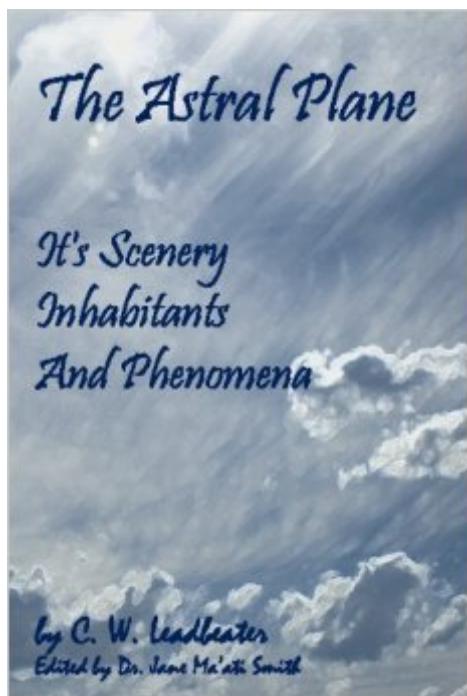


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The Astral Plane: Its Scenery, Inhabitants And Phenomena



Synopsis

A Theosophical Classic describing what the Astral Plane is, its advantages, its dangers, what types of spirits inhabit it, what it is like, and how to get there.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Astral Projection is a subject that I always thought fascinating. So after I installed the kindle application into my portable devices, this ebook was a no brainier for me. However, you must be forewarned that the book is dated 1895, and as such very wordy and repetitive at times.

Regardless, it delivers. This ebook uses a clear, easy to read font type. Paragraphs wraps around well. The title of each chapter is all caps bold, but remain on the same type case. It has a table of contents that is hyperlinked, and easy to use. It contains no pictures. The hyperlinked table of contents include:IntroductionChapter I A General SurveyChapter II SceneryChapter III Inhabitants. Human. Non-Human. ArtificialChapter IV PhenomenaChapter V ConclusionThe Astral Planes are described with some detail in Chapter II. In Chapter III, the author describes the inhabitants of the astral planes including human such as the living (adepts, psychically-developed people, ordinary people, and black magicians), and the dead (nirmanakaya, adepts, ordinary people, shades, shells, vitalized shells, suicides, vampires and werewolves, man in the grey world, and black magicians); non-human such as elemental essence, animals, nature spirits, and devas; and Artificial such as elementals, and human artificials.

The controversial C.W. Leadbeater (1854-1934) was one of the leaders of the Theosophical Society Adyar, a new religious movement often regarded as the forerunner of current New Age thinking. He seems to have been number two within the society, immediately below the supreme leader Annie Besant. Leadbeater was also a bishop of the Liberal Catholic Church (LCC), essentially a front group for the Theosophists. Otherwise, Leadbeater is mostly known for having discovered Jiddu Krishnamurti. Both the Adyar society and the LCC still exist. (I attended one of the LCC's masses some years ago, and almost collided with the poor priest!) "The Astral Plane", also known as "Manual No. 5", is Leadbeater's description of the astral world, a spirit-world the Theosophists believe is situated immediately above the material world. However, the astral world is nevertheless lower than the mental world or Heaven. It corresponds most closely to what Christians would call purgatory, and all souls of dead humans must pass through it on their way to the real heavenly world. (The words "above" and "below" are, of course, figurative.) According to Leadbeater, the astral plane is experienced in many different ways by the souls passing through it. Evil souls are stuck on its lowest rung and experience something similar to Hell. To others, it looks like Heaven. It seems everyone at this plane reaps what he has sown. Sooner or later, all souls leave the astral plane, shed their astral bodies, and move on to the mental, devachanic or heavenly realms. In this sense, Leadbeater was a "universalist". Of course, most souls eventually reincarnate, but the book says little about this. Parts of the book are critical of Spiritualism, claiming that most spirits talking through mediums are impostors.

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